

**“Summits” from front page**

buying local for the holidays.

“The focus will be about local stores, local vendors, local artisans and artists. We’ll be helping people find ways to do shopping right here in Sugar House,” said Annalisa Steggell, Westminster College director of community relations.

The summit is expected to be a fun night, with carolers and musicians on the streets, giveaways and giant sales.

In addition, residents can expect to find education on the importance of local businesses. “The summit will include an education for community neighborhood people about why it matters that you have a thriving business district,” Steggell said.

Planners are hoping to have Bob Farrington speak about why supporting local businesses is important. Farrington was chosen to lead Salt Lake City’s economic development program after he served as the executive director of the Downtown Alliance of Salt Lake City, during which time he helped establish the Downtown Farmers Market and First Night.

November’s summit meeting covered the topic of “Stories, Scrapbooks, and Sugar House History.” People were invited to bring old photos or documents to be digitized. The Sprague Library is working with the Westminster library to archive and catalogue these records online.

October’s summit meeting was a workshop on local food production. Professionals in the field of gardening, as well as local gardeners gave presentations during a three hour conference that covered issues such as helping neighbors start gardening, resources for gardeners, and building networks within the gardening community.

“We learned a lot about the idea of creating an environment in Sugar House where everybody here has access to nutritional, affordable food,” Olsen said.

The event was well attended and exceeded expectations, according to Olsen.

In addition to learning about local food production, interest was sparked to begin community co-ops and a farmer’s market. Committees have been formed to consider and work on those projects.

“The cool part about [the summit] is that the information doesn’t end,” Steggell said. “Working groups continue to work on issues of finding community gardens or farmer’s markets. Now, there are active groups of people who didn’t know each other working together.”

For more information on upcoming summits, visit [www.MySugarHouseJournal.com](http://www.MySugarHouseJournal.com).

# Art show raises money for local refugees



Photo courtesy of Robert Bagley.

Attendees view paintings on display at the Hammers Inc. Art Festival.

By Rebecca Brown Wright

Hammers Inc. and the Salt Lake City Rotaract Club partnered together for the first time to host an evening of local art, Nepalese food, and an auction, Oct. 16, at the Leisure Living Warehouse. The third annual Hammers Inc. Art Festival was held to showcase local art and raise money for the refugee community in Salt Lake City.

More than \$5,500 was raised from the silent auction, private donations, and door

fees, according to Garrett Smith, Hammers Inc president. That money will create a trust fund through Rotaract to provide job training and certification fees for Salt Lake refugees.

Smith, who is also a member of the Salt Lake City Rotaract club (a part of Rotary International), was the one who suggested partnering with Rotaract this year.

“He extended that invitation to us as a group and, of course, we were all on board,” said Emily Smoot, Salt Lake City Rotaract Club president. “We’ve been

working with the (refugee) youth in this community, but we knew there was more we could do. We wanted to target the (refugee) adults in helping them to become more self sustaining.”

Thirty artists displayed more than 115 art pieces at the festival, with a few artists even doing special pieces portraying the stories of specific Sugar House refugees in their artwork.

“The Hammers Inc. Art Festival started out as an opportunity to give artists exposure and get together,” Smith said.

The first two festivals were held in the backyard of Smith’s parents’ home. The first year attracted between 60 and 70 visitors but by the second year, that number jumped to nearly 300. This year’s festival had almost 600 attendees.

The theme of Nepal was chosen because it was thought to be “quite enticing to people here in our own community. Our lifestyles are similar in that we’re both outdoorsy, mountainous communities,” Smoot said.

The funds raised from the art festival are eligible to refugees of all backgrounds.

The Rotaract Club has worked with  
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